

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 7-15, 17-19, 23-37 remain in the application;
Claims 1, 7, 17, 18, 19 and 32 have been amended;
Claims 5, 6, 16, 20, 21 and 22 have been canceled;
Claims 36 and 37 have been added;
Claims 6 and 7 have been objected to;
Claims 23-30, and 33-35 have been withdrawn from consideration;

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that two of the claims had the same number and that the Examiner had renumbered the second instance of claim 31 as claim 32. Applicant has amended the second instance of claim 31 to reflect the Examiner's amendment. Insofar as the claims are now correctly numbered, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection has been overcome and requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that dependent claims 6 and 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, Applicant has amended the claims thusly: Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 6 and intervening claim 5. Dependent claim 7 has been amended so that it now depends upon independent

claim 1. New, independent claim 36 is the combination of independent claim 1, dependent claim 7 and intervening claim 5. New dependent claim 37 includes the subject matter of dependent claim 6. In addition, claims 17-19 have been amended to claim dependency from claim 16 to claim 36.

Claims 16 and 20-22 have been canceled.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 8-22, and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,715,965 (Manthei).

It is believed that the above rejection has been rendered moot by Applicants' amendment to the claims at issue.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-4, 7-15, 17-19, 31, 32, 36 and 37 are in condition for allowance. Should this be the case, Applicant hereby authorizes the Examiner to cancel the withdrawn claims (23-30, and 33-35) by Examiner's amendment. If the Examiner believes there are additional issues that stand in the way of the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and that prosecution of the application may be expedited by a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned representative at the telephone number provided below.

Customer Number

22854

Date September 4, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
For the Applicant(s)
By his/her/their Attorneys,

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